

**Question for written answer P-006295/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ángela Vallina (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Extension of the port project in Agaete, Gran Canaria, carried out with ERDF funding, and potential impact on protected environmental areas

Agaete is a town in the north-west of Gran Canaria. Part of the municipality has been recognised by Unesco as a biosphere reserve. It has been announced that in December work will begin to extend the port of Agaete, the entrance to which is in the area that is part of the biosphere reserve.

The current port was 'sold', and approved, in the 1980s as a fishing harbour, but it became an industrial port. Since it opened, there has been only one shipping line in operation, Fred. Olsen. Some 80.5% of the local people are against the project.

The General Court of the EU has instructed the Canary Islands Government to have the current port shared by two shipping companies, Armas and Fred. Olsen. Fred. Olsen is currently appealing that ruling. The current port operates at 23% of its capacity, so the extension is not justified by the demand.

Is it possible for the EU investment in this project to be transferred to Puerto De La Luz and Las Palmas, which is the main port in West Africa and where there is no central passenger terminal for shipping companies operating inter-island and extra-island routes, instead of this ERDF-funded project?